GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5819
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2017
Welfare of Journalists
Shekhawat Shri Gajendra Singh

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government is aware that journalists in print and electronic media are reportedly being exploited and under paid by print and electronic media houses;
(b)if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
(c)whether there is any law to regulate the salaries and remunerations of all journalists;
(d)if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(e)whether the Government proposes to bring all media personnel including journalists on contractual basis under Wage Board; and
(f)if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) to (f): The Central Government constitutes Wage Boards for working journalists and non-journalist newspaper employees from time to time in accordance with the provisions of section 9 and section 13C of the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955. So far 6 such Wage Boards have been constituted under the said Act.

The Central Government notified the accepted recommendations of the Wage Boards in the official Gazette in accordance with the provisions of section 12 of the said Act.
Contd..2/-

The Government notified the accepted recommendations of the Majithia Wage Boards (last wage Boards) vide SO No.2532 (E) dated 11/11/2011 subject to the outcome of the Writ Petition (Civil) No.246 of 2011 in the matter of ABP Pvt. Ltd. & Others Vs. Union of India & Others filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Hon'ble Supreme Court delivered the judgement on 7.2.2014 in the WP No.246 of 2011 and other tagged Court Cases with the directions that all the writ petitions have been dismissed and the wages as revised/ determined shall be payable from 11.11.2011 when the Government of India notified the recommendations of the Majithia Wage Boards.

Any complaint received regarding non-implementation of the recommendations of the Wage Boards are forwarded to the concerned State Government who is the competent authority under the said Act to ensure implementation of the recommendations of the Wage Boards.

Currently the Wage Boards recommendations are applicable to the working journalists and non-journalist newspaper employees. A Writ Petition has been filed in the High Court of Delhi praying to amend the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 to include journalists working with Electronic News Channel within the definition of Working Journalists as defined under the said Act. The case is pending in the Hon'ble Court.

******